



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

February 27, 2015

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PAUL'S NOTE

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- * Transportation 101: The Ward 2 office will host a public forum on transportation issues on March 11, 5:30—7:00. See page 2

My office has had a slew of e-mails from the public regarding the situation at Veinte de Agosto Park. The council will be discussing the matter on Tuesday.

The city is a bit hamstrung about what to do given the fact that a federal court order says that the people camping in the park are exercising their first amendment rights.

Since that decision was handed down, the situation in the park has escalated. We have filed another action in the court, and I'm hoping that the recent events involving assaults, harassment of pedestrians, unsanitary conditions and even loose dogs will convince the court that what is going on there has moved far beyond free speech.

Homelessness is a real issue in this communi-

ty. Unfortunately, what is going on in the park doesn't do much help the homeless.

The City has enlisted the Salvation Army, Primavera Foundation and other agencies to speak to residents of the camp at the park and assess their needs. The aim here is to see if there are services available to them and encourage them to move out of the park.

My colleagues and I will be discussing other options as well. I've wrestled with poverty every day in my work, but this demonstration does nothing about it except making a part of our downtown less safe.

We are finishing off Love of Reading Month here in Tucson. Many of you came to the Ward 2 office to donate books to Literacy Con-

nects. Even though February is over, we will continue to take book donations.

Speaking of books, we are about to have one of Tucson's premiere events: the Tucson Festival of Books. The festival has always attracted some of this country's top authors. This year is no exception: Mitch Albom, Noam Chomsky and Ana Castillo are among the invitees, and they will be joined by local favorites like J. A. Jance and Jane Eppinga.

The festival was founded by Bill and Brenda Viner, Frank Farias and Bruce Beach back in 2009, and will run this year on March 14 and 15 over on the U of A campus. If you are interested in volunteering, visit tucsonfestivalofbooks.org.

TRANSPORTATION 101

Paul Cunningham invites you to a public forum:

Transportation 101: Tucson's transportation progress and funding with a special update on Ward 2 projects.

- Houghton Road
- Kolb/Sabino Extension
- Neighborhood Paving

Representatives from the City of Tucson Transportation Department and Pima Association of Governments will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on transportation projects.

Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Program begins at 6 p.m.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Charter Review Committee has been meeting to make recommendations regarding possible changes to the City of

Tucson Charter. The Committee is seeking input and recommendations from the citizens of Tucson regarding these changes to the Charter.

The Committee will hold two Public Hearings on:

March 10, 2015

El Pueblo Neighborhood Center

101 W. Irvington Road

5:00 p.m.

March 12, 2015

Morris K. Udall Regional Center

7200 E. Tanque Verde Road

5:00 p.m.

The comment period for the Committee will end on March 20, 2015.

HOUGHTON ROAD UPDATE

Broadway Intersection Improvements: Project is complete.

Broadway Intersection Park & Ride: The contract started on Sept. 2. We have had a few setbacks on this project, but we are continuing to make progress.

The rains (and snow) we have experienced since the new year have held up our paving. Initially we were waiting for the fill material to dry out, and had to re-work some of it to facilitate the drying. Then just as we got it where we wanted it, it rained again, and then again. Finally, we are scheduled to pave this Saturday, Monday and Tuesday with the weather forecast in full cooperation.

We are wrapping up the last of the sidewalk work and landscaping. We did have to get some unexpected sign code permitting approvals on the monument signs for the Park and Ride entrance, but those permits are well on their way to final approvals.

We are still trying to get the prefab Sun Tran bus driver office/restroom building ordered. There were some additional unexpected permitting issues here as well, but those have been ironed out, and now we are just waiting for the final building drawing adjustments from the contractor so we can order it. There is a long lead time for this item, so there may be a period of time where there might not be any activity on the site, but we want to assure you it will all come together.

Broadway Boulevard to 22nd Street: We were hoping to have this project in full swing by now. Unfortunately, some of the right of way acquisitions are taking longer than we anticipated. While we work on these last few right of way issues, we have been moving forward with the contract negotiations and procurement paperwork to get this project going. We are now looking to start work in March, but may have to adjust that depending on the acquisition and procurement process. We still plan to construct this project in 18 months or less.

The utilities have relocated and the only item left is the removal of a few of Tucson Electric Power's old poles. Some of these will be removed as soon as the power for our Houghton and 22nd Street intersection is switched over to our new location. This work is currently in progress.

Art: Our artists are working on their concept designs and we hope to hear from them soon as to when we can see what they are proposing. We will keep you posted on this.

Street Lighting on Houghton: We heard everyone's concerns at our open house covering lighting, and we have been doing a lot of research and adjusting our LED lighting accordingly. We are currently looking to reduce the 3500K LED lighting level to 3000K, and will have more information as we coordinate the implementation of our lighting policy.

We thank everyone that took the time to share their concerns covering lighting, and we want you to know we are listening and making some changes where we can.

CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

AARP Tax Aide: AARP will offer free tax help at the Udall Recreation Center, 7200 E. Tanque Verde Rd. from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning through April 15, 2015.



PARKS PROGRAMS

Spring 2015 Leisure Classes: The Spring classes run through May 9, 2015. The deadline to register was Tuesday, December 23rd. Watch for the Summer 2015 Program Guide and Class Catalog to be available on Monday, April 20, 2015; It will be available for free pick-up at all Parks and Recreation facilities and it can be viewed on-line at www.ezeereg.com Contact the Registration Office at 791-4877 for additional information.

Summer 2015 Lifeguard Recruitment: The Parks and Recreation Department is recruiting lifeguards for Summer 2015. On-line applications and recruitment process are available at www.tucsonaz.gov Click on JOBS. Applicants must be at least 15 year old at time of hire, Experienced swimmer and available to work required hours/locations, American Red Cross certification in CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer, American Red Cross certification in First Aid Basics, and American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification. For questions or assistance for completing any of the above mentioned lifeguard certification requirements, contact 791-4245.

Junior Staff in Training Program: The Junior Staff in Training program provides teens with an experience aimed at improving leadership skills and preparing teens ages 14-17 for possible future employment in the field of recreation.

Program requirements include a mandatory interview (takes place the week of March 16-20, 2015). Call Mike Davis at 837-8137 to schedule the interview by March 11, 2015, paying a registration cost (\$70 City Residents/\$889 Non-city Residents), and attending orientation prior to start of program

Tucson Parks and Recreation Spring 2015 Softball Leagues: The Tucson Parks and Recreation Spring 2015 Softball League season begins March 23, 2015. Walk-in registration runs through March 6, 2015 at the Clements Recreation Center/Sports Unit, 8155 E. Poinciana Drive, 791-4870.

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Remember to like
Paul on Facebook!

Please bring these items to the Ward 2 Office
for the following charities:

**THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK—Non Perishable
Items**

**DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA—
Infant/Child/Adult Diapers**

**TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals
and Families in Need**

LIONS CLUB—Eye Glasses

**DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—Ballet/
Dance Equipment**

CASA MARIA—Plastic bags

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on Tuesday, March 3. Regular Session starts at 5:30 pm following an afternoon study session. There is always a short call to the audience before the business portion of the meeting. Council chambers are located downtown at 255 W Alameda.

The agendas for the meetings are posted online at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/mcdocs>

